The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The New York Democracy and the Federal Income Tax.

The conference which it is proposed to hold early in September to rehabilitate the Democratic party in the State of New York will prove an utter failure if it ignores the pending constitutional amendment empowering the Federal Government to impose a tax on incomes *from whatever source derived* without apportioning the same according to population.

This proposed amendment is clearly the most important political measure now before the country.

Every State is directly interested in it, and must presently pass upon it one way or the other.

Are the Democrats who may be elected to the Legislature this fall expected to vote in favor of the constitutional amendment or against it?

They will be urged to support it on the ground that such an amendment was advocated in the platform of the last Democratic national convention.

It is to be borne in mind, however, that the utterances of that convention on the subject of the taxation of incomes were the utterances not of the Democracy of the State of New York but of WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

Furthermore, no other State can speak for the State of New York on the question of the adoption of a constitutional amendment.

Do we want to increase the powers of taxation already enjoyed by the Federal Government? Is any such increase necessary for the successful and efficient administration of the affairs of the nation? If we want to tax incomes the State possesses ample authority to do so; why grant a like power to Congress and thus lessen the resources of the State for purposes of taxation? Finally, if every other objection is disregarded, why adopt an amendment so crudely drawn as to render it doubtful whether it does not really empower the national Government to tax the State Governments out of existence by the charges levied upon the incomes of State and municipal officers?

The sensible answers to these questions are obvious. Will the rehabilitated Democracy of the State of New York deal with the proposed constitutional amendment accordingly and demand its rejection?

News for Henry Gassaway Davis.

There is nothing of which the Hon. HENRY GASSAWAY DAVIS is more proud—Mr. DAVIS at 87 is as straight and sturdy and simple in his wants as a mountain hemlock—than his humble origin and early association with manual labor. It was the proud boast of Mr. DAVIS when, as the candidate of the Democratic party for Vice-President, he solicited the suffrages of his fellow citizens. In the heat of the campaign of 1904 he wrote to one of them who suspected him of plutocracy:

"I think I can well claim that I belong to the laboring class. For many years I worked in the ranks as a wage earner, and I know what it is to earn my living by the sweat of my brow."

Mr. DAVIS had in mind the carefree days when he served the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as a brakeman. Never has he ceased to dream of the superlative felicity of that period of his career. Indeed, the story is told of him that, dozing in his seat in the Senate, when he had acquired wealth as well as merit and wore the finest broadcloth, a blast of Senator ALLEN GRANBERY THURMAN of Ohio upon his famous bandanna brought Mr. DAVIS nimbly to his feet, and to the amazement of his colleagues he was seen to wrench the back of his swivel chair under the impression that there had been a hurry call for "Down brakes!" Mr. DAVIS never resents the story: it pleases him, recalling his sanguine young manhood when his sensitive foot was on the bottom rung of the ladder. When Mr. DAVIS was running for Vice-President he liked to see in the newspapers such tributes as this:

"Mr. DAVIS is essentially a man of the people. He is very democratic in his manner and in his method of living. He is always for the under dog in a fight and on the side of the plain people every time."

Imagine, then, the consternation of this homespun old tribune when he learns that he is of royal lineage, a descendant of CHARLEMAGNE and King PEPIN. The fact is vouched for by Mrs. ALBERT L. RICHARDSON of Baltimore, a student of genealogy, who has just returned from an intimate inquiry into the Davis pedigree, which, according to an interview with the lady in the Baltimore *Sun* of yesterday, has its roots deep down in the most revered traditions of England and the Continent. Among the forebears of Mr. DAVIS other than CHARLEMAGNE and PEPIN, the following have been discovered and linked with him by Mrs. RICHARDSON:

"HERBERT I., Sieur de Peronne and St. Quentin, killed in 902 by the followers of the Count of FLANDERS.

"HERBERT II., Comte DE VERMANDOIS, who arrested King CHARLES the Simple at St. Quentin and sent him prisoner to Peronne. His wife was a daughter of the Duc DE FRANCE.

"ALBERT I., who did homage to King LOUIS of France and died in 980.

"HERBERT IV., Comte DE VERMANDOIS.

"OTHO, Comte DE VERMANDOIS, who succeeded his brother ALBERT and was living in 1043.

"HERBERT V., Comte DE VERMANDOIS, living in 1078, who married ADELLA, Comtesse DE CREPSY and DE VALOIS, daughter of RAOUL, Comte DE CREPSY and DE VALOIS."

Mr. DAVIS will of course have to listen to all this, but it would require a high order of moral courage to carry the news to the rugged old gentleman and remain within physical reach or earshot while he digested it. Mr. DAVIS, we are sure, will never hear the last of it from his son-in-law, the Hon. STEPHEN BENTON ELKINS.

The Company of Gargantua.

When war's dread tocsin sounds every ear is astretch for the earth shaking tread of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery. For 271 years these thunderbolts of fight have faced every shape of can or feast the broad arena of Cocagne could produce. Modern times know the importance of the commissary department, too little recognized in the days of hand to hand fighting. These Massachusetts Macedonians not only move in perfect phalanx against the enemy, but by their forages and ravages they leave him bare of supplies. This work is not showy, but how it counts! We are not surprised then that some of our correspondents, forgetting the military methods of the Ancients or burning with a creditable impatience to know the exact present position of their favorite corps de soif, complain that no mention is made of these veterans in the bulletins from the seat of war in Massachusetts.

We must not imprudently disclose too much, nor would we do anything to discourage the army of the Red, but when the country, the world, waits with baited breath for some word from the Pappenheims of Parker's, duty, not unaccompanied, we trust, with discretion, bids us speak. The army of the Dark Brown is the reserve, the Old Cabinet Reserve, of the Blue army. The main division occupies the Armory, but there are strong detachments in Fort Parker and Fort Young. If the invaders try to sack Boston they will find in this heroic band the greatest experts on Boston sack. Stern, calm, their belts unbuckled and their pocket pistols unslung, the defenders await the foe. They cannot be conquered. They are not men easily to be surprised.

The automobile and taxicab divisions are drawn up in three lines. If Fort Young is taken there will be a retreat to Fort Parker or reenforcements will be sent from the Armory. But an Ancient and a half at either end will blockade School street, and a dozen will make the whole Faneuil Hall region inaccessible. From behind these fortifications round after round of highballs and lowballs is being discharged. This is but practice and routine. Woe, woe to the soldiery that meets the company of Gargantua when it does battle in earnest and in the spirits of its traditions!

Wu Ting-fang.

We wonder whether among WU TING-FANG'S other failures in this country we may count a failure to lift the ban on China that resides in our claim of the so-called extraterritorial rights in that country. The operation of this right is to deny to the Chinese courts jurisdiction over American offenders or over native criminals who claim American citizenship by virtue of their professions of conversion to Christianity by our missionaries. We have in fact established and are conducting in China a judicial system entirely independent of the imperial establishment, and the amusing feature of it is that we seem to expect the Chinese authorities, as well as the people, to thank us for it and to pour the treasures of their commerce into our lap as one means of certifying to their gratitude.

Perhaps Mr. WU TING-FANG made no attempt in that line, entering into the humor of our unruffled sense of superiority. Perhaps he tried and was ignored, as no doubt he had expected. Now he is going away, and we can believe that it must have strained his reserves of amiability to conduct negotiations with a country which recognized China diplomatically, was anxious to lend it money and interchange commodities with fluency, yet treated its people as pariahs and would not trust its courts to discharge their functions in the cases of Americans or pretended Americans. That our attitude in these respects is illogical there can be little doubt. That it is offensive and humiliating must be obvious to a man of WU TING-FANG'S exquisite temperament. Nevertheless, so it is. We are engaged in affectionate wrangles with other Powers to place our loans in China, we are overwhelming it with recognition as a great empire whose trade we want and whose Government and business men we are anxious to treat with confidence and esteem; yet while excluding the Chinese from our territory we are continuing to demand for every American wanderer or pretender on Chinese soil immunity from trial by the local courts, and in other ways exemption from cognizance by the local authorities. With such hands as these we invade China and demand favor and indulgence!

It is not much of an excuse to say that other nations set up the same extraterritorial pretensions, and it is a shabby if not a disingenuous attempt at justification to plead that China has exhibited no determined and menacing resentment. In her weakness, which after all may consist in a misguided love of peace and an abnormal horror of violence, China has submitted to many foreign aggressions without protest; aggressions which she loathes, notwithstanding, and the fruits of which still rankle in her soul. However that may be, the acts of other nations ought to furnish no standards under which we can seek condonation, and the spectacle of an invertebrate resignation should spur us to sympathy instead of buttressing our brutality.

Mr. WU, as we more or less affectionately call him in this country, will sail away, and China will send in his place another Envoy, who may or may not understand us; but the chief bulwark of American ignorance and superstition will remain, and with it the situation. To that end, if we really desire trade with China, our solicitudes had better be directed.

Paid For Out of Bond Issues.

The amounts of money to be disbursed in 1909 for "interest on the city debt," "redemption of the city debt" and "instalments payable in 1909" are set forth under these headings in the budget as printed in the *City Record* of yesterday. They reach the respectable total of $47,223,078.33, only a little less than a third of the entire amount to be raised, and a highly impressive proportion of the $117,145,889.07 that must be gathered by direct taxation.

An examination of the detailed figures would be of educational advantage to those citizens who look upon a bond issue as a matter not of direct interest to themselves but as a subject vaguely referred to the consideration of future generations. Bearing in mind that the present city of New York is only eleven years old, these figures show that the appropriations for interest, amounting to $29,671,070.13, are made up of these interesting items:

The city of New York	$17,140,895.08
Interest on bonds and stock to be issued after September 30, 1908, and in 1909	2,010,000.00
Interest on revenue bonds of 1904	5,000.00
Interest on revenue bonds of 1905	5,000.00
Interest on revenue bonds of 1906	360,000.00
Interest on revenue bonds of 1907	800,000.00
Interest on revenue bonds of 1908	2,000,000.00
Interest on revenue bonds of 1909	1,800,000.00
Total	$24,150,895.08

To these items, all chargeable to the present city and all representing bonds issued since January 1, 1898, are to be added the following interest payments on debts contracted by the municipalities consolidated on that date previous to their consolidation:

The city of New York, as constituted prior to January 1, 1898	$2,784,034.06
The city of Brooklyn, Kings county and towns, as constituted prior to January 1, 1898	2,201,328.20
Corporations in Queens county	434,964.56
Corporations in Richmond county	99,881.23
Total	$5,520,205.05

So the burden, in interest, imposed by the administration of former generations on the taxpayers of 1909 is one-fifth of the sum the property owners of to-day have imposed on themselves.

For the redemption of the city debt the total appropriation is $10,919,425.15. Of this sum $9,362,000 is to apply on debts contracted since consolidation, leaving as the total inheritance from the past the sum of $1,557,425.15.

Of the total amount of instalments payable this year, the whole sum being $6,632,583.05, the amount chargeable to indebtedness incurred prior to consolidation is $978,934.98, leaving $5,653,648.07 to be expended on debts authorized in the last eleven years.

Taking the three divisions of this account we find that in 1909 the city calls on the taxpayers for these sums on account of debts contracted since January 1, 1898:

For interest	$24,150,865.08
For redemption	9,362,000.00
For instalments	5,653,648.07
Total	$39,166,513.15

The amounts to be raised to pay the corresponding items on debts dating from before consolidation are:

For interest	$5,520,205.05
For redemption	1,557,425.15
For instalments	978,934.98
Total	$8,056,565.18

Thus it appears that of the $47,223,078.33 to be raised to meet interest on the city debt, to provide sinking funds and to redeem obligations this year, $39,166,513.15 is on account of expenses incurred since 1898, and only $8,056,565.18 is to pay for the dead horses of the preconsolidation days. We commend these figures to all voters who conceive it to be possible to shift completely the burden of extravagant government to the pocketbooks of future generations.

General Marina's Predecessor.

General MARINA'S bulletin to his troops on the eve of the forward movement in Morocco recalls the achievements in the same field of a famous Spaniard of Irish descent, LEOPOLD O'DONNELL, Count of Lucena and Duke of Tetuan. The war of 1859-60 shed lustre on Spanish arms, reviving the most glorious traditions of the infantry. Like a General of the Napoleonic era, MARINA calls upon his troops to emulate the gallantry of the soldiers of O'DONNELL:

"Spain has her eyes on you and gives you her encouragement. She asks you to prove you are the heirs of the heroes who half a century ago placed your flag in Tetuan, bore it victorious through the Valley of Castillejos, along the bed of the River Martin, over the rough mountains of Wad Ras."

The decisive battle in the previous campaign was fought at Wad Ras on the Tangier road, and the rout of the Moors was complete. The officers particularly distinguished themselves in that war. Mr. HARDMAN, an English correspondent in the field with O'DONNELL, says that most of the officers killed were shot through the head or neck while sitting erect on horseback and leading their troops. The soldiers seem to have been worthy of their officers, and the war, which had been demanded by a jingo press, closed in a blaze of glory for all concerned. O'DONNELL had a tremendous reception when he returned to Madrid and was soon gazetted Field Marshal and Duke of Tetuan for his services.

The Spanish soldier is as brave and hardy as he was when General O'DONNELL led an army of invasion against the same tribesmen, but whether General MARINA is of the same stuff as the descendant of the O'DONNELLS who turned their backs upon Ireland after the battle of the Boyne is yet to be proved. The son of HENRY JOSEPH O'DONNELL, also a Field Marshal of Spain, was a turbulent and martial spirit, engaged in more than one revolution, and as conspicuous in the Cabinet as in the field, a true soldier of fortune, an adroit politician, and a man of marked executive ability.

Mr. JAMES BROWN of Brown Brothers & Co. was mentioned in an editorial article in THE SUN of August 14 as one of the directors of the Windsor Trust Company, his name appearing in the latest list to which we had access. We now learn—and state the fact with pleasure—that Mr. BROWN terminated his connection with that company about six months ago.

Few persons that have heard of Sir THEODORE MARTIN, who has just died at the great age of 93 years, senior of all Englishmen of letters and probably also of solicitors in active practice, will think of him as spending a professional life of sixty odd years as a "parliamentary agent for the passing of private bills," the dignified British form for what is known in the United States as "lobbying." In his leisure hours he did a great deal of excellent literary work; he was a respectable poet and turned out many admirable metrical translations, and he could write good prose.

He was content, however, to let his fame shine through reflected light. It was his partnership with AYTOUN in the brilliant "Bon Gaultier Ballads" that first attracted the attention of readers to him. Later he was known as the husband of HELEN FAUCIT, the actress. His last literary collaboration, with Queen VICTORIA, which lasted for many years, while it added to his social prestige, rather detracted from his reputation as a writer, though his share in the "Life of the Prince Consort" and other works was cast in the shade by the effulgence of the royal author. He succeeded in appearing in public like a combined MÆCENAS and HORACE while working as a busy lawyer in private, yet managed to keep active well beyond his ninetieth year.

The stipulated period for making bids for the 26,000 ton battleships Arkansas and Wyoming authorized by the naval appropriation act of March 3, 1909, expired yesterday. Ten years ago the constructor advocating a battleship of such size and battery power—these ships when commissioned will carry twelve 12 inch guns—would have been regarded as visionary. It is true that big ships were proposed by American naval officers before the Dreadnought was laid down, but it was not until that battleship had her trials and her superiority as a fighting machine came to be recognized that the construction of such a giant as the Arkansas was seriously considered. Some of the specialists maintain that 30,000 ton ships with proportionate increase in gun power will soon be added to the United States navy; but it may well be asked, What will become of homogeneity if no limit is set to the size of ships of war?

We suppose that the economists will cry out that the country cannot afford these leviathans. The rejoinder is that they should usher in a day of smaller appropriations for the navy. In a paper written in 1906 Commander WILLIAM S. SIMS made these comparisons:

"1. A fleet of ten 20,000 ton ships, each having a broadside fire of eight 12 inch guns (or eighty in all), would cost about $100,000,000. 2. A fleet of twenty smaller vessels, each having a broadside of four 12 inch guns (or eighty in all) and the usual intermediate guns, would cost about $130,000,000. 3. It requires less men to man the main battery guns of an all big gun ship than of a mixed battery ship. For example, it requires less men to serve the 12 inch guns of the Dreadnought than the four 12 inch and sixteen 6 inch guns of the Missouri."

Commander SIMS also declared that as the Dreadnought requires but one fire control party, while the Missouri must have two and three parties, the complement of officers is obviously smaller on the big ships. "Therefore," said he, "assuming 800 men and twenty combatant officers in each ship, it will require 8,000 men and 200 officers for ten all big gun ships, and about 16,000 men and 400 officers for the fleet of small vessels having the same broadside fire." In fighting ability, Commander SIMS contended—and the question is no longer debated in Europe—that ten big ships with their greater gun range and enormous battery power would be vastly superior to twenty ships like the Missouri (13,000 tons). The Arkansas and Wyoming will be so much more formidable than the big ship Commander SIMS had in mind that his argument gains in strength when the prospective new warships are under consideration.

Art Education in the United States.

In Bulletin 1909, No. 6 of the United States Bureau of Education, Henry Turner Bailey, editor of the *School Arts Book*, says that a rough estimate of the annual expenditure for art instruction in the United States is:

By municipalities	$4,520,181
Private schools, academies and colleges	2,500,000
Private schools of fine and applied art	2,500,000
Subscriptions to art educational periodicals, &c.	1,000,000
Summer art schools	500,000
By the States	400,000
By the United States Government	95,060
Schoolroom decoration	50,000
Total yearly	$11,565,241

Editor Bailey says: "This measures only in part the interest of the people of the United States in the subject of art instruction. The interest is widespread and rapidly increasing. The history of art instruction in France, Germany and England furnishes ample data for predicting that in the near future the relation of art to industries and to national welfare will be so keenly appreciated by all our people that they will make more liberal appropriations for all effective agencies for furnishing art instruction in the United States.

"Art instruction aims to raise the standard of taste. It includes instruction in seeing and interpreting the beautiful in nature and the arts, in drawing, both freehand and instrumental, in designing, coloring and modelling, in manipulating paper, cloth, leather, wood, metal or other material, to produce a result having elements of beauty.

"Art instruction in the broadest sense is promoted in the United States through the cooperation of many agencies. Chief among these are the public schools, art schools, special evening schools, art educational organizations and publications (many not avowedly art educational and therefore perhaps more widely influential), art departments in normal schools and in colleges and universities, summer schools, handicraft societies, public libraries having departments of art, lecture courses and local exhibitions.

"Art instruction is of less than forty years standing in American education. Originating a generation ago in the minds of a few far seeing men it has made wide conquest of cities, but it has not yet achieved legislative victories in every a majority of the States and its influence upon the Federal Government as such is still barely perceptible."

The present annual expenditure of $4,520,181 by 996 municipalities for art instruction classifies as:

Elementary schools	$2,068,587
Special institutions of high school grade	1,567,978
Public high schools	883,616
Total	$4,520,181

Besides the art work in the schools, colleges and universities, the United States already has 365 art museums and societies, as well as four in Paris and one in Rome. The American art magazines number forty-seven. Art is also taught in ninety-two summer schools in the United States.

He Did.

Stella—Did he say he loved you in so many words?

Bella—Yes, seventeen pages.

SOME CONDITIONS AFFECTING OUR COAL PRODUCTION.

The early history of the anthracite region is a record of profligate waste in the mining, preparation and use of that precious fuel, and this has only been remedied and could only be remedied by the close control and conservative management which has been brought about in recent years.

When McLeod bankrupted the Reading road in securing for its offspring, the P. & R. C. & I. Company, the great coal reserves it owns to-day he was building better than he knew. The possession and control of those coal lands are the most valuable assets of that road at the present time; but more important than that, in the ultimate economy of things, has been the preservation of thousands of acres of coal lands from reckless spoliation. McLeod paved the way for the safe and sane control of the anthracite industry in place of the cutthroat competition and extravagant methods which prevailed in earlier years.

Under former conditions in the anthracite regions, when it was not considered necessary to give thought to the morrow, and indeed up to the time when the anthracite coal waste commission made its report in 1887, it was estimated that for every ton of coal mined and sold one and a half tons were lost. The greater part of this loss was in the coal left in the ground as pillars to protect the workings, while millions of tons of small coal or screenings were thrown on the culm banks, which now form unsightly mountains in the coal regions. Improved methods of mining and of preparation have of late years reduced the percentage of waste, so that at present the recovery will average about 60 per cent. and the loss about 40 per cent. By means of washeries usable coal is being saved from the old culm banks, and specially designed furnaces have made it possible to use this fuel in steam plants. It may also be possible in the future to recover a considerable part of the coal from the pillars in the old workings where they have not been hopelessly crushed by the settling of the overlying strata, but this could be done only at enormous expense compared with the present mining cost and when the burning of anthracite coal shall have become a luxury and permitted only to the wealthy.

Even in our day and generation it is only by strictest economy and skilful management in operation of the mine that the prices of coal to the consumer can be maintained as at present. The average price of anthracite at the mines ranges from $2.25 to $2.35 a long ton. What are known as "prepared sizes," lump, broken, furnace, egg, stove and chestnut, range from $3 to $3.75, and all the profits must be made on these. Pea and smaller sizes are sold at less than the cost of production, some as low as from 40 to 50 cents a ton. A careful study of conditions in the anthracite region will convince the most sceptical that no robbery of the public is being carried on.

The experience of the anthracite region in the past is being repeated in the bituminous coal industry of the present, perhaps in an aggravated form. Because of the wide areas of coal bearing rock and the enormous and seemingly exhaustless supply the need for a control of that supply by powerful interests or by the Government does not, however, at first thought appear immediate. Yet there is reason to apprehend that the time is not far distant when the conservation of our stores of bituminous coal will require the placing of a curb upon their exploitation. Competent authorities in the United States Geological Survey have placed the stock of bituminous coal before its use began at about 3,000,000,000,000 tons. Fifty years ago the annual production was about 5,000,000 short tons. In 1907, the banner year of industrial activity of the United States, the production of bituminous coal was 395,000,000 tons, an increase in half a century of almost eightyfold. Such a record has not been made in any other country or in any other time, and it has been estimated that if this rate of increase continues for the next hundred years as in the last fifty the bituminous coal supply will closely approach exhaustion in the next century.

The situation at the present time is that on account of the wide distribution of the bituminous coal fields, aggregating some 250,000 square miles of area (exclusive of approximately equal areas of lower grade coals and lignites), and the larger part of the coal being easy of access, there is no restriction upon the opening of new properties. The development of an anthracite mine, with its expensive breaker equipment, requires the investment of at least $500,000 at the start. A bituminous mine can be opened up with a capital of a few thousand dollars, and although the already developed properties are capable of producing from 50 to 75 per cent. more than the great tonnage of 1907, new mines are constantly being opened and the railroads are called upon to furnish switches, spurs and shipping facilities to new properties when they are unable to supply the requirements of the operating mines. Every mine opened necessitates the further thinning out of an already inadequate supply of cars, yet it is a fact well known in the coal trade that if all the cars asked for could be furnished there would be an immediate glut of coal on the market and general demoralization of the industry. Five per cent. of surplus means at least 25 per cent. of decline in values, and while this may seem desirable to those who clamor for cheaper coal it is destructive to industry in the long run. It means lowering of wages and the instituting of other economies prejudicial to safety in the operation of the mines. Every new mine opened calls for miners to work it; and miners, who are as a class nomadic, seek employment in the newer mines for the reason that shorter distances have to be travelled from the shaft or pit mouth to the working places. This reduces the supply of labor at the older mines and naturally curtails the productive capacity. Reduction of output increases the cost of every ton produced, and the time must arrive when the older mines will be compelled to shut down as unprofitable investments.

Under existing conditions there does not appear to be any effective way of curbing the tendency on the part of coal land owners to develop their properties and of protecting the capital already invested in the industry. The railroads are powerless, for as common carriers they are compelled when called upon to supply the cars and furnish side tracks, whether there is a demand for the increased production or not. Each new opening adds to the spirit of rivalry and competition which seems to be the controlling influence. Mine competes against mine, district against district, county against county, State against State, and the United States is outstripping all other countries in the production of coal. This means of course the boasted industrial supremacy of the world in our own times, and what do we care for posterity?

The year 1907 was one of the most prosperous years, if not the most prosperous year, in the history of bituminous coal mining; production reached its maximum, and prices were the highest in recent years; yet there were very few districts in which the margin between the cost of putting the coal on the railroad cars and the price at which it was sold was as much as ten cents a ton. In many States it was considerably less than that, and this margin must cover such losses as are due to explosions and other accidents, indemnities paid to employees or their heirs, and all extraordinary expenses. One such explosion as that at Monongah, W. Va., in December, 1907, will wipe out many years profits. In 1908 not only was the margin of profit much reduced in all the coal mining districts but thousands and hundreds of thousands of tons were sold at less than cost of production. Of course it is poor business to continue production at a loss, but a coal mine is not a factory nor a quarry. It costs money to close down a coal mine. The mine must be kept clear of water; if the ventilation is stopped gas accumulates, falls of roof and coal occur, and after a period of idleness much repair work has to be done before operations can be resumed. It is often less expensive in the long run to continue the production of coal at a loss than to close down the mine.

Under our system of government the Federal authorities have no jurisdiction over mines in the several States. Were such a thing constitutional it would appear to be expedient to place some restriction on coal production by a system of license, and no license should issue for the opening of a new coal mine until ample evidence is given that the necessities of trade require it. It seems beyond reason to hope, under the competitive conditions above referred to, that the States will undertake to restrict developments in their respective jurisdictions.

Not the least of the difficulties with which the coal mining industry is beset is the apparent inability of the operators to enforce discipline among their employees. When humanity is shocked by the occurrence of some great disaster in a coal mine sympathy is poured out to the miners and invective hurled against the mine owners. He is without a soul who would withhold sympathy at such a time, but scarcely less brutal is he who holds up to the condemnation of the world the persons in authority who have by all human endeavor striven to prevent the catastrophe. It is unfortunately true that the death record in the coal mines of the United States shows unfavorable comparison with other countries, but it cannot be truly said that the blame should attach to the operators alone. In the great majority of cases they who suffer death or injury in the coal mines are victims of their own carelessness or that of their fellow employees.

The year 1907, the year of greatest production in our history, was the darkest year in regard to casualties, the death list exceeding 3,000. At one time an epidemic of explosions seemed to exist, and scarcely had the echoes of one died away before another occurred. The victims from this cause numbered nearly a thousand, or approximately one-third of the total. The statistics show, however, that more than this number were killed by falls of roof—most of which are preventable if proper precautions are taken by the men or if in fact they obey the rules of the companies. In ordinary years the majority of accidents are due to roof falls or to other preventable causes, but these occur singly and are not chronicled in the news despatches. Even in the case of explosions the cause may usually be traced, if any witnesses are alive to testify, to an act of carelessness or disobedience. A prolific cause of mine explosions is what is known as a "windy shot," due to an improperly prepared blast, or the failure on the part of the miner to undercut his coal, depending, as he frequently does, on the powder to do his work for him. And yet all efforts to secure legislation which will permit the authorities to protect the miners against the consequences of their own acts are met with strenuous opposition on their part. It is a restriction of their liberties as American citizens, and miners have votes.

It is just here that the strength of the mine workers' union has been exercised for evil. Instead of giving aid in the securing of legislation which will hold miners criminally responsible for acts of carelessness or insubordination that may result in loss of life or damage to property every effort is made to prevent it. If in the effort to enforce discipline a mine employee is discharged for infraction of rules the result is in the majority of cases the precipitation of a strike, and the mine is laid idle for several days. The influence of the union could be made a power for good, but unfortunately it is not so directed. Coal mining is at best a hazardous occupation, and there is no line of industry in which a military type of discipline is so essential, except perhaps in the passenger service of railroads and steamships. In European countries, where fewer accidents occur, the operations are under strict police surveillance, and both miners and operators are made to obey the law. When this is done in the United States accidents will decrease, but the expense of mining will be increased and the price of coal will advance. On behalf of the mine owners it must be admitted that self-interest, if nothing else, compels the exercise of precautions against accidents. If they have no interest in securing the safety of their employees they have at least a desire to protect their own properties.

Non-Participants.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The account of the conference of several political bodies called by the Cleveland Democracy is incorrect in two particulars: That the Municipal Democracy was represented by several members, though no names were mentioned. As chairman of that organization I state that no one was authorized to attend the conference.

That the Manhattan Single Tax Club was also represented. I am president of the club, and as such state that we have rigidly adhered to the resolution adopted about twenty years ago not to take part in politics. F. C. LEUBUSCHER.

NEW YORK, August 18.

Strange Inquiry From the Jerseys.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If "exaggerated ego" (big head) is a sign of lunacy, about how many sane Americans are there?

NEWARK, N. J., August 18. ORE OF THEM.

Reactionary.

She treads in society's maze
With the willowy grace of a queen;
On the tennis she excels
All the rest of the belles
In putting the ball o'er the green.

She's conversant with all of the names
That are hallmarks in classical lore—
Catullus, Empedocles,
Juvenal, Socrates,
The stagirite grim—and some more.

She paints with precision and skill;
Her brush lights the virginal page;
She has also been known
To sit still on her throne,
As a queen on the amateur stage.

But, oh, 'tis in music divine
She shines inexpressibly grand;
For this more than uncommon,
Delightful young woman
Can play the piano—by hand!

EUGENE GRANT.

NOW HERE'S A SNAKE STORY!

The Wysox Men and the Leaping Reptile of Table Rock Mountain.

From the Towanda Review.

Two Wysox men had a thrilling experience on Table Rock Mountain Monday afternoon, one which they will not care to repeat.

They were walking on the mountain, viewing the fine scenery. As they walked and mused they came upon a large copperhead snake which was enjoying a sun bath about 100 yards from the rock which gives the mountain its name. The men looked around for stones, but none that they could handle to good effect could be found, nor a good club at hand.

Taking sticks of good length they attacked the snake, which showed fight and struck at both men. Failing to land and not liking the lashing of the sticks, his snakeship started for the edge of the mountain overlooking the river which flows at the base some 1,400 feet below.

Reaching the edge of the table rock, which hangs out from the mountainside a considerable distance, the snake arranged itself in a peculiar shape, and then with a hiss half jumped half squirmed out into the air. The men rushed upon the sheiving rock and peered over and watched the fearful descent of the snake, expecting to see it strike the trees or protruding rocks, but it plunged on down the mountainside, missing all these obstructions. It was not thought possible the snake would clear the Lehigh tracks, but as the distance was covered the snake seemed to straighten out and, as the men vow, crawled through the air and succeeded in landing in deep water with hardly a splash.

While they were watching to see if the snake came to the surface one of the men became dizzy from peering over the edge of the rock and would have followed the snake's awful example had not his companion caught him just in time.

Some idea of the distance travelled by the copperhead can be had when it is known that but few boys or men can throw a stone so that it will strike in the river as the snake did.

BELLONA'S BRIDEGROOMS.

Where Are the Ancients in the Hour of Heady Fight?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For some hours there has been a far away look in my eyes, expectant and confident even, awaiting the account, inevitable as I believe, of the distinguished itinerary of the Ancient and Honorable in these now stirring times to the eastward. There is the story to be told, and it must be told at once, of the defensive operations about the Parker House, the disruption of the pavement in and about School and Washington streets, to form the bases of the barricade; the rapid transference of trunks and débris of the trees from the Common—such as have been spared by the gypsy moth—to form the detaining and confusing abatis; while surcharged mysterious implements of ravage will disperse the plethoric and deadly corks upon the insolent intruders. What will this conflict amount to without the Ancient and Honorable?

NEW YORK, August 17. EX-MILITARY.

Is Fort Parker Safe?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* During the invasion of Massachusetts, may I inquire what part does the Ancient and Honorable Artillery take, or is the Parker House secure against direct assault? DOUGH BOY.

NEW YORK, August 18.

Binding Up the Wounds of War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My dear husband—just like him—is supposed to have been "killed" in this attack on Boston. My friends tell me that it has happened in the line of duty and I am all right. What I want to know is, am I really entitled to a pension, and if so how do I go about to get it? I would like to surprise Robert with the good news when he gets back.

MARGARET B. SPONTOON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 18.

Following the Fray.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* G. Noble passed through here to-day, presumably in pursuit of the army of the Red, followed closely by Galen Vinton Bowditch displaying port and starboard lights. PIE ALLEY.

BOSTON, August 17.

"The Hero of San Juan."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your pleasing reference to General Hamilton S. Hawkins reminds me of one or two incidents in his career which may be worth the telling. He was brevetted twice for conspicuous gallantry on two noted battlefields of the civil war and declined both honors. When I asked him the reason he replied: "Because I wasn't present at either battle. I won't be a party to a fraud." Therein he differed from several other "brevets." When General Hawkins was commandant at West Point a negro cadet was so grossly insulted by a white classmate that a third cadet, a Southerner of Southerners, denounced the offender in such blistering terms that he instantly challenged the Southerner to a fist fight. The two met and had it out on the famous battle ground back of old Fort Putnam. The Southerner nearly killed his opponent, who spent several weeks in the hospital and did not fully recover for months. The fight was so terrific and so generally known that the authorities could not ignore it. The victor was summoned before Commandant Hawkins, who looked sternly at him as he entered his office and asked for the particulars of the affray. They were given frankly and truthfully. "I suppose that ends my career at the Academy," added the cadet. The commandant rose from his chair and walked up to him. "On the contrary, I ask the honor of shaking hands with you: return to your quarters." That's the sort of fellow General Hamilton S. Hawkins is.

E. S. B.

CHRISTMAS COVE, Me., August 17.

Lord Londonderry's Changes of Name.

From the Westminster Gazette.

Charles Stewart Vane-Tempest-Stewart, Marquis of Londonderry, who has just entered his fifty-seventh year, has been obliged to change his mode of signature five times. When he was born in 1852 his grandfather, the third Marquis, and his uncle, subsequently the fourth Marquis, were still alive. His uncle was Lord Castlereagh, his father was Lord George Vane, and he was Charles Stewart Vane-Tempest-Stewart. On the death of the third Marquis Lord George Vane succeeded to the Earldom of Vane, and his son getting the courtesy title of Lord Seaham thus signed himself when he was at Eton. The death of his uncle made his father Lord Londonderry and himself Lord Castlereagh, and as such he signed himself before he left Oxford. In 1884 he succeeded to the Marquisate, Earldom and Barony of Londonderry and the Viscounty of Castlereagh (all Irish titles), and the Earldom of Vane, Viscounty of Seaham and Barony of Stewart in the English peerage. Since then his signature has been "Londonderry," except in the House of Lords, where he sits by right of his English earldom, and therefore signs himself "Vane."

Chorister's Long Service.

From the London Mail.

All honor to Mr. Fred Moore (who has sung in one choir at Stafford for seventy-four years) for his unstinted and loyal service. Mr. Moore, however, is not the oldest chorister still in active service in the kingdom. This honor, I believe, is due to Mr. George Arnold, who has been a member of Holy Trinity Church, Bosham, Sussex, for more than eighty years. Mr. Arnold joined this choir in 1829, and still sings in the chancel behind his grandson, who is also a member of the choir.

Even this, I do not think, constitutes the record, for on looking through an old list in my possession I find the name of a Mr. John Siddons, who in the year 1814 joined the parish church choir at Snarestown and was still in active service there as a chorister in 1896, when he had just celebrated his ninetieth birthday. Eighty-two years is certainly a record hard to beat for length of service in one choir.

"Buttery" and "Pantry."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A few days ago something brought to my recollection the fact that one of my grandmothers had a receptacle or apartment which she called a "pantry," while the other grandmother called a similar apartment a "butt'ry." The dictionary defines after a fashion but does not clearly explain the old New England uses of these differing terms for what were, in my experience, very much the same thing. I desire information on the subject from those who remember pans and crockery in a "butt'ry" and butter and pies in a "pantry."

NEW ENGLANDER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 18.

The Essex Trooper.

Helen—Is he gallant and brave?

Lucilda—Well, he must be when he has already been killed hypothetically four times in the invasion of Boston.